

September 11,2023

Respected Chair Guzmán Ortiz and Superintendent Castaneda

Kindly allow me to share my reasons for the position that I plan to take with regards to this resolution.

I am open and willing to discuss ways we can address this very important issue in a pro-human approach that is fair in treating everyone with dignity without regard to skin color or other immutable characteristics, with open mindedness and deep understanding of each other, recognizing the individuality, and celebrating the unity in our diversity and help heal our community for the sake of all our children and families.

I have arrived at this after much reflection based on my own lived experiences, my journey in public service and as a school board director, listening to various constituents from diverse perspectives and I have reviewed multiple resources Including important - Foundation against intolerance and racism www.fairforall.org.

Sincerely

Satya Chandragiri MD

Resolution No. [202324-2](#) Commitment to equity and antiracism

I believe as a nation, America should finish the unfinished business of racism and there should be no place for all forms of explicit dangerous ideologies of white supremacy and racism like the world saw with Nazi Regime or Apartheid in South Africa or the horrors of chattel slavery or Jim Crow eras in our nation. Further, I believe the long-term complications of the horrors of slavery and racism is still felt today in many forms. While I acknowledge that we as a nation have had a very traumatic past, we have come a long way from where we were. Yet, I will not be able to support the resolution on Equity and anti-racism as it is written.

Reasons:

1. Terms such as white supremacy and racists are not defined and was misused against students, teachers and even board directors and families. It has been weaponized and used to stoke primal fears of others and keep the flames of racial animus and creating an atmosphere of fear and a spiral of silence to prevent any other perspectives or deplatforming differing ideas. It has become like a dog whistle to silence dialogue or

those with different beliefs or political ideology. Any white person who comes to the public-school board meeting is not 'white supremacist, Christian fascist, racist'. It is dangerous, slanderous, and like ill-defined blasphemy laws as practiced in some nations from where our families have fled to seek refuge here.

2. We have a serious trust deficit in our schools/communities, and we must heal our communities. I am not sure how this policy as worded will accomplish this. Under the cover of this policy we have seen more divisiveness, and segregation. Sadly, it has distracted us from matters of accountability. White students have lowest sense of belonging!

Our world needs to come together like the motto of 2023 G20 summit - one earth, one family and one future! Together we need to uplift all.

We have made many assumptions here and not once reached out to our Muslim, Sikh or Jewish communities in Salem Keizer to listen to their authentic experiences. True Evil can come in any skin color. We can not selectively use history to fit a narrative while we also represent many immigrants and refugees from Africa, south America, Asia and have experienced color on color violence and ethnic attacks.

3. Let us implement existing policies and laws to accomplish Equitable education and stop racism and dangerous white supremacy instead of this policy. Are we consistently implementing policies for safe and welcoming schools, civil rights laws including title VI, anti bias laws etc?

4. This policy comes across as virtue signaling with no clear pathway for action to heal our national historic wounds. Equal protection for safety and civil rights protection can not mean equal exclusion of all families or some groups pitted against others or overlooking the serious concerns when a Black child is assaulted and the entire after school program for Black children is shut down!